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DEMOCRACY CALLED INTO QUESTION
JUDGE RULES GREENS WON'T DEBATE {page 6}

THE LUSH
RUSSELL BRAND KNOWS ALL TOO WELL {page 10}

LONDON metro®
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

▶ Marc Blanchard as Odysseus scans the skies for airborne attackers during a rehearsal for The Odyssey, a Grand Theatre high school project that runs to Saturday at the McManus Studio Theatre.

KYLE REA/METRO

Take that, Spider-Man

The cast of The Odyssey consists entirely of local high school students with sights set on professional careers in the theatre world. Director Jeremy Smith describes the characters in play as "the first superheroes," and adorns key cast members in superhero-like symbols. More coverage, page 3.

ER backlog a domino effect, official says

- **Full nursing homes force elderly to occupy hospital beds**
- **Patients with less-serious conditions can expect long ER waits**

KYLE REA
@METRONEWS.CA

One city official says they should be in nursing homes, but with no beds available nearly 100 elderly patients are stuck in hospital, creating a backlog in the emergency department.

That has prompted London Health Sciences Centre to publicly ask Londoners with minor medical problems — sore throats, sprained ankles, etc. — to see their family doctor, visit a walk-in clinic, or go to the urgent-care centre rather than the ER.

Dr. Gary Joubert, citywide chief of emergency medicine, said although there are numerous reasons for the backlog — such as a major flu season and an aging population — perhaps the biggest factor is the number of beds available.

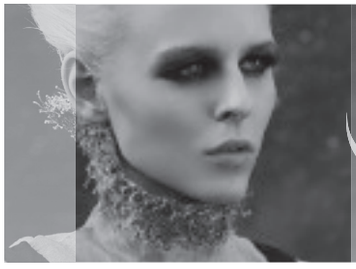
Joubert said there are currently patients in the emergency department who should have been admitted to hospital, but there's no room available. That's because 93 hospital beds are being used by elderly patients requiring alternative care. In all, LHSC has 846 beds available citywide.

"They would really be better off in a nursing home, but because there isn't space, they can't move," Joubert said. "That knocks out 93 beds which would offload a significant number of beds from our emerg department and allow us to better do our work."

ER breakdown

Emergency rooms in London see more than 500 patients a day:

- **University Hospital:** between 130-160 patients a day
- **Victoria Hospital, adult emergency room:** 140-170 patients a day
- **Victoria Hospital, pediatric emergency:** 100-130 patients a day
- **Urgent Care Clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital:** 90-100 patients a day



UNBOUND
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A Fashion Show Featuring The Collections of the Fanshawe College Fashion Design Graduating Class of 2011

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www.fanshawec.ca/unbound

1 news

Tories come under withering fire for early social media tumbles. Scan code for story

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On the Web at metronews.ca

Many thought Michael Ignatieff was doomed this election, but 10 days of campaigning changes a lot. More at metronews.ca/spindoctor

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Aircraft bailout offer grounded

Diamond Aircraft's president says he appreciates the effort, but a city councillor's solution to the local plant's financial woes won't fly.

Dale Henderson surprised other councillors at city hall on Monday night by announcing he'd found a Florida investor willing to put up the $35-million loan the local aircraft-maker needs.

"I checked with some of my contacts and they found an aircraft lending company in Florida," Henderson told AM980.

But that loan would still depend on a bridge loan from the federal government.

Peter Maurer, Diamond Aircraft's president, says he appreciates Henderson's enthusiasm and effort but unfortunately, the proposal won't work.

"We did set up a conference call and explored it with them," he said. "The company specialized in doing equipment leases and, to make a long story short, would've been very interested in doing something if there was a federal government guarantee behind it.

"Quite frankly, this is a company that doesn't specialize in this kind of financing, and I don't think that's a viable option for us."

AM980/AM980.CA

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Dale Henderson

Police search river for man

THAMES. London police and fire officials desperately searched a portion of the Thames river after a 30-year-old London man fell into the water yesterday afternoon.

Police were called by a witness who saw the man go over the edge. London police Staff Sgt. Tom Gaffney told AM980 how the man fell in.

"At about 3:40 (yesterday) afternoon there was three gentleman drinking right along the river's edge, just west of the Carfrae Street bridge on the north side of the river. One of the man fell into the water and was immediately with the swift current being swept down the river to the west."

London fire search and rescue boats continued to patrol the cold, fast moving water. Police, EMS and fire officials were also staged along the river from Ridout to Wonderland.

A wallet had reportedly been found floating in the river near the Wharncliffe Road bridge.

A name of the victim will not be released until next of kin are notified.

AM980/AM980.CA

Make like a kid: Go outside and play

Come out of hibernation for spring with as little as 30 minutes of aerobic activity a day: Health unit

KYLE REA
@METRONEWS.CA

The calendar may say spring is here, even if Mother Nature seems to be saying otherwise this week.

And as we all look forward to warmer weather, Middlesex-London Public Health wants people to start thinking of ways to say goodbye to winter hibernation and hello to outdoor activities.

Dorothy McCann, public health nurse, said there are so many activities people can, and should, do when spring weather finally arrives.

"This is just the perfect time of year to get outside and we have so much opportunity here in London and Middlesex County for things that take place outside," she said, listing activities from biking and walking, to rollerblading and organized sports.

Think baseball and soccer leagues are just for kids? Think again, McCann said, noting adult leagues are becoming increasingly popular from soccer to slo-pitch.

Over the years, she's heard all kinds of excuses about why people can't get in shape — not enough time tends to be the biggest one.

"It's also very easy to ... not do something, due to lack of motivation," McCann continued. But it doesn't have to take tons of time — she noted those over 18 years should get about two-and-a-half hours of moderate aerobic exercise a week. She explained that's easy to do: If you walk every day, how bout boosting the pace from a leisurely stroll to a brisk walk?

If you're at a loss for what to do to stay in shape, check out www.inmotion4life.ca.

Let's get physical

Some tips to succeed at exercise:

- Set small, modest, goals at first — it's easier to meet smaller goals than face disappointment.
- Start slowly and keep your exercise routine brief until you build up some endurance.
- Some is better than nothing — even 10 minutes of exercise a day is better than being a couch potato.
- As time goes on, change up your routine and increase your intensity. That way you can keep your body guessing and it won't get used to the exercise.

KYLE REA/METRO

▶ A jogger enjoys an afternoon run in Ivey Park, yesterday. With spring on its way, jogging, walking and biking are all great ways to shake off winter hibernation, says Middlesex-London Public Health.

Bank-heist suspect at large

Police are still looking for a suspect in a robbery at TD Canada Trust at 2478 Main St. on Saturday morning.

The suspect is described as a male in his early 20s, about five-foot-seven with a thin build.

An undisclosed sum of money was obtained by the suspect who then fled the area southbound on foot.

He was wearing a dark, hooded sweater with stripes and a black rubber face mask.

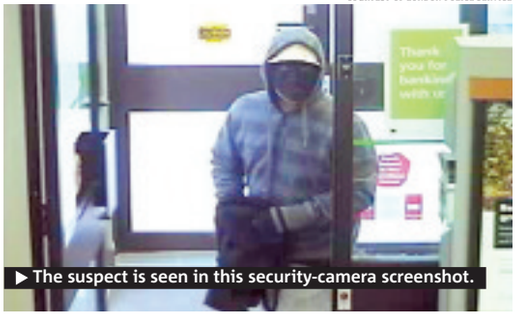
METRO

Who to call

Anyone with information is asked to call the London police at 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

- You can also provide tips anonymously at www.londoncrimestoppers.com.

COURTESY OF LONDON POLICE SERVICE



▶ The suspect is seen in this security-camera screenshot.

Everyone's got advice for Smith

Musical family: Smith's mother, three sisters (piano) and father (bass) each play an instrument

Smith plans to keep her Juno in her home basement studio in Halifax

JIM REYNO
@METRONEWS.CA

Hey, Meaghan Smith, Juno winner for best new artist — got a great idea for a song. How about The Ballad of Burnt Bacon. What do you think?

"I've gotten a lot of songwriting advice from a lot of different people who actually don't write songs," the London native said about the "help" she's gotten with her craft.

"It's been really confusing, and I've kind of had to rethink everything."

Smith's Juno win has placed her firmly in the spotlight. But while the spotlight can bring accolades, it can also bring heat.

"As best new artist, I feel like I have to live up to not only other people's expectations, but my own," said Smith, "which are probably much higher than anyone else would have for me."

For her followup to The Cricket's Orchestra, the Halifax resident is planning a full-length holiday CD (including a collaboration with Buck 65). We can expect an album of original material by Smith in the spring.

For the new record, Smith hopes to expand on her personalized mix of strings, horns and other instruments. She has called it a "quirky, vintage vibe."

"I love the whole old and new combination of sounds," Smith said on a recent visit home. "Hopefully, I'll take the style I've sort of stumbled upon and really take it and run with it and push it."

And despite all the songwriting tips, Smith knows that when it's time to record, it's got to come from her soul.

"I can't think of other people when I write, because honestly a really good song is 100 per cent honest truth," Smith said. "And there can be no fear of, what will someone think if I say this out loud?"

In good company

A list of the eight previous winners of the Juno Award for best new artist.

- **2003:** Avril Lavigne
- **2004:** Michael Bublé
- **2005:** Feist
- **2006:** Daniel Powter
- **2007:** Tomi Swick
- **2008:** Serena Ryder
- **2009:** Lights
- **2010:** Drake

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ London native Meaghan Smith holds her award for best new artist after winning it at the 2011 Juno Awards in Toronto last month.

News in pictures

ALL PHOTOS:. KYLE REA/METRO

1 Marc Blanchard as Odysseus, left, welcomes Eurylochus, portrayed by Greg Eadie, on his epic journey in a scene from The Odyssey, which is currently running at the McManus Theatre as part of the Grand Theatre's spring high school project.

2 Scott Keyes, as Sid, hoists a goblet of treasure looted from the city of Troy in a scene from the play.

3 Imogen Wasse, portraying Penelope, appears in a scene from The Odyssey.

4 Blanchard as Odysseus, centre, celebrates with his crew as they prepare to set out on the epic journey central to The Odyssey. Also pictured are, from left, Scott Keyes, Virginia Iredale, Evan Wasse, Greg Eadie and Nate Crocker.

The entire cast of The Odyssey is drawn from local high schools. For tickets, call 519-672-8800 or visit grandtheatre.com. Shows at 7:30 p.m. to Saturday, with 1 p.m. matinees today and Friday. KYLE REA

Prized. Paper

▶ Tom Turner, middle, holds up his winning copy of Metro yesterday and is joined by FM96 promoters Jonah Istifan, left, and Shawn Herman.

Morning paper and a cash prize

Tom Turner stopped by the corner of Wellington and King streets yesterday morning and picked up free coffee, a copy of Metro London, as well as a cash prize, as part of the Tucker and Taz FM96 Giver. People who stopped by their booth yesterday and picked up a paper found cash prizes of $5, $10 or $20 inside.

Heat on Ontario Liberals over ex-staffer's pay

Ron Sapsford's salary hidden in hospital budget after he quit Premier Dalton McGuinty wouldn't say why it was paid by Hamilton Health Sciences

The opposition turned up the heat on Ontario's Liberal government yesterday over a former deputy health minister's $762,000 salary that was buried in a Hamilton hospital's budget.

Confidentiality rules prevent the government from saying why Ron Sapsford received the payment last year after he quit amid the eHealth scandal in 2009, said Premier Dalton McGuinty.

The money is believed to be severance, but McGuinty would not say why it was paid by Hamilton Health Sciences or why severance was given after Sapsford quit his job.

The New Democrats accused the Liberals of trying to hide Sapsford's salary in the budget of the Hamilton hospital corporation.

"In Hamilton, people want to know why Ron Sapsford was paid as much as he was and why his compensation was buried in the records of Hamilton Health Sciences," said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath. "Is this premier prepared to give us a good explanation or will he continue to duck and cover, and hope it all blows over?"

The Liberals had made salaries like Sapsford's and others on secondment from public agencies more transparent by publishing them in two different sections of the sunshine list of public sector workers paid over $100,000, said McGuinty.

"I can't speak to the details (because) it's a human resources issue and there are confidentiality provisions associated with these, and perhaps understandably so."
PREMIER DALTON MCGUINTY

McGuinty didn't explain why Sapsford's salary was listed under the Hamilton hospital instead of the ministry for which he worked.

The Progressive Conservatives said McGuinty gave Sapsford a "backroom deal."

"Premier, why won't you come clean with Ontario families?" Opposition Leader Tim Hudak said in the legislature. "Why do they continue to pay for your backroom deals stemming from the eHealth scandal?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

Appeal could lead to bail for Best

An appeal lawyer was expected to file paperwork yesterday that could lead to Tim Best being freed on bail.

It's been less than two weeks since the husband of former mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best was sentenced to six months in jail, following his arrest for a pair of hit-and-run collisions on the 401 and in Dorchester on Jan. 31, 2009.

Robert Sheppard was expected to file an appeal with the Ontario Court of Appeal yesterday, which could lead to an application for bail pending appeal later this week.

Best was found guilty of impaired driving causing bodily harm, two counts of failing to remain at the scene of an accident, and dangerous driving.

Best's defence lawyer suggested during his sentencing that an appeal would be filed, citing an "inconsistency" with jury acquittals for two offences for having more than 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood.

AM980/AM980.CA

Probation

▶ Instead of jail time, Best's lawyer had pushed for probation or a 90-day jail sentence that he could serve around his work schedule, so he could keep operating his Richmond Street bar, Friday Night Lights.

ENVIRONMENT

High water warning issued

Plenty of rain on Sunday and Monday has prompted the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to issue a high water safety bulletin.

Parents are advised to keep children away from fast moving creeks and streams.

"While no serious flooding is expected at this time, we wish to remind people that water is high, fast moving and dangerous," says a bulletin on the authority's website, thames-river.on.ca. Levels are expected to remain high for several days and could potentially rise again on the weekend if rain forecast for later this week materializes.

Environment Canada forecast a strong chance for rain today as well as Friday and Sunday. An estimated 25 to 30 millimetres of rain fell on the area earlier this week.

KYLE REA

New tool to tackle city's graffiti

The City of London and London police will unveil a new tool tomorrow to tackle graffiti.

This "one stop shop" to report graffiti vandalism allows people to use their cellphone GPS function to take a photo of graffiti and email the picture and location to tag@london.ca.

In an effort to make graffiti reporting easier, this email address allows both the City of London and police to continue the effort to rid the city of this form of vandalism.

METRO

Two men charged in suspected break-in

Two London men have been charged after police responded to an alleged break-and-enter in progress.

Police said two men were seen loading windows from a home construction on Dormer Drive onto a truck early Sunday.

Miklos Szabo, 33, has been charged with theft. Slawomir Slugocki, 29, has been charged with theft as well as resisting arrest.

METRO

Jet cost dispute heats up

- U.S. defence analyst says each stealth jet will cost $73 million more than government estimates
- Statement on Parliament Hill may influence election

Canada's new fleet of stealth jet fighters will cost almost double what the Conservative government is projecting, a U.S. defence analyst says.

Winslow Wheeler, of the Centre for Defense Information in Washington, injected himself directly into the federal election by providing his estimate at a news conference on Parliament Hill.

Wheeler said yesterday the unit cost of the F-35 jet will be about $148 million per airplane — an estimate that is in line with what the parliamentary budget officer has projected.

The government says the unit cost will be up to $75 million per jet, and has mounted repeated public attacks on the budget officer's estimate.

"Nobody on this earth is going to be buying F-35s in flyable condition at $75 million a copy. That's not in the cards," said Wheeler, who was invited to Ottawa by the left-leaning Rideau Institute think tank.

The untendered jet purchase is a contentious issue during the federal election campaign. The Liberals want to scrap any future deal with U.S. defence giant Lockheed Martin because they say it's not the way to go while the country is facing a deficit.

Wheeler worked for three decades on security issues for the U.S. General Accounting Office and for members on both sides of the aisle of the U.S. Senate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fight fees

The government plans to buy the 65 high-tech fighters to replace Canada's aging fleet of CF-18 jets.

- The overall cost to taxpayers would be about $15 billion over 20 years, including maintenance costs, the government says.
- That estimate is based on a unit price of $75 million per plane.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

▶ A Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is shown in this undated handout photo. A U.S. defence analyst says Canada's new fleet of stealth jet fighters will cost almost double what the Conservative government is projecting.

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DOWNTOWN LONDON

No May-bes: She's off TV

Elizabeth May loses bid to join leaders' debates ◐ But Greens fight on

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Green party Leader Elizabeth May says she'll appeal to Canadians to put pressure on the other party leaders and the TV consortium in an effort to change their minds.

Election 2011

Elizabeth May has been thwarted in her last-ditch effort to convince the courts to give her a podium at next week's televised leaders' debates.

But the Green party leader is not giving up yet.

Federal Court judge Marc Nadon refused yesterday to make an emergency ruling on the case before the debates get underway. The short period of time wouldn't have allowed the court "to perform its duty in a satisfactory manner," Nadon said.

It was a body blow for the Greens, who got a major blast of publicity when May participated in the debates during the 2008 federal election.

The Greens will pursue the matter in the Federal Court of Appeal, even though the case can't be heard before the debates, May said.

But she'll also be talking to her lawyer about whether there are "any legal avenues" that would allow the Greens to have the matter heard in court before then.

The consortium that runs the debates insists only parties with seats in the last House of Commons can participate.

The English-language debate is on April 12. The French-language debate will take place April 14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHO'LL BE PM?

Iggy tells Quebec: You choose

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is asking Quebec voters to determine who'll be the next prime minister.

Ignatieff travelled to separatist Bloc Québécois territory in central Quebec yesterday in pursuit of his bid to unseat Stephen Harper's Tories.

The Liberal leader has been casting the May 2 election as a two-horse race, a fact of life he says Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe has accepted.

Duceppe has noted that either Harper or Ignatieff would occupy 24 Sussex Drive.

"Even Mr. Duceppe understands that," Ignatieff said. "So what we've got to say to Quebecers is, you've got to choose here, folks."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper's style not pretty, says Layton

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jack Layton took aim yesterday at Harper government scandals.

The NDP leader provided a laundry list of alleged Conservative misdeeds, including the latest revelation that Stephen Harper hired a senior adviser who had five fraud convictions.

The prime minister has said he knew Bruce Carson had one conviction, but not others.

Layton said he doesn't believe Harper and he claimed most Canadians don't, either.

He said in Winnipeg: "Canadians are right to be asking: 'If Mr. Harper wins this election, how long will it be until the next Conservative insider is charged with fraud?'"

And just to emphasize the point, he repeated his entire condemnation in French rather than alternating between languages as he does most often.

The barring of opponents from Tory rallies and tight background checks on those who do get in are the "signs of a closed, controlling approach," Layton said.

"I think it says something about Stephen Harper and his administration, and it's not pretty," he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tears as women ejected from local Tory event

Two women have been ejected from a Conservative event for perceived ties to the Liberals — a move Michael Ignatieff calls "un-Canadian."

The Liberal leader cites an incident Sunday in which the women were ordered to leave a Tory event in London.

One woman, a 19-year-old student, broke into tears after she and her friend were forced out of a rally by an official, who then ripped off their name tags and tore them, a newspaper said.

The official claimed to know via Facebook that the pair had links to the Liberals.

Another newspaper cited an incident in which a volunteer who helps homeless veterans was turned away from a Harper rally in Dartmouth, N.S.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Stephen Harper eats maple taffy at a Quebec sugar shack yesterday.

When asked about the incidents, Harper appeared to lay the blame at the feet of his campaign workers.

"Staff runs our campaigns and I can't comment on individual matters like that," he said in Quebec.

"Hundreds and hundreds of people are coming to see our campaign."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PMO apologizes

London West Conservative candidate Ed Holder told AM980 he found Sunday's incident regrettable.

▶ "The Conservative party, through the Prime Minister's Office, has issued an apology to the two students who were asked politely, but clearly, to leave — but it's still wrong," Holder said.

"In fact, sometimes you get folks who are a little overzealous and they think they're doing the right thing and, frankly, that's really unfortunate."

Holder said he has been told the Prime Minister is willing to meet the students.

AM980/AM980.CA

Hassle-free offer made to Gadhafi allies

Quit Libya's tyrant and you can keep your cash and freedom, say U.S. and Britain ◐ Meanwhile, movie star Angelina Jolie greets refugees

JASON TANNER/UNHCR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Angelina Jolie, a United Nations goodwill ambassador, visits refugees at a camp near the Tunisia-Libya border. The UN says more than 400,000 people have fled Libya over the past month.

It's a sweet deal diplomats hope Moammar Gadhafi's family and top aides will jump at:

If they publicly withdraw support for the Libyan dictator's regime, the restrictions on their assets and travel plans could be made to vanish.

The U.S. Treasury and Britain's Foreign Office have spelled out the details of the proposal, and discussions are now under way at the European Union ahead of a meeting of foreign ministers next week.

Gadhafi's seven sons, a wife, his daughter, two cousins and other allies who have served him for much of his rule are all being given a chance to escape blacklists and reclaim billions of dollars of seized funds.

The EU will decide next week whether to lift a travel ban and asset freeze imposed on Moussa Koussa, the former Libyan foreign minister who escaped from Tripoli last week, flew into Britain and is now providing information to intelligence officers.

"It's a carrot-and-stick tactic that frankly hasn't worked very well in the past, but we're reaching a critical point that we have to try various approaches."
EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL

The U.S. Treasury on Monday removed sanctions it imposed on Koussa, saying lifting the measures "should encourage others within the Libyan government to make similar decisions to abandon the Gadhafi regime."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dictator using civilians as shields: rebels

Libyan government forces unleashed a withering bombardment of rebels outside a key oil town yesterday.

NATO has said nearly a third of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's heavy weapons have been destroyed.

But rebels say Gadhafi's forces changed tactics in the besieged western city of Misrata by moving tanks and other heavy equipment to civilian areas to prevent pilots from targeting them.

A doctor in Misrata said Gadhafi's forces have been placing heavy weapons near civilians there for the past two weeks.

"They snuck their anti-aircraft weapons and tanks into the city. They are between the apartment buildings and the trees."
A DOCTOR IN MISRATA

Misrata is one of two major cities in the west that have risen up against Gadhafi's regime, which has responded with a brutal crackdown.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIBYA LANDMARK

Rebels turn on oil tap

Libyan rebels are exporting oil again for the first time in almost three weeks through a tanker that arrived yesterday at an eastern port, potentially giving them crucial funding for their fight against Moammar Gadhafi's forces.

The tanker Equator, which can carry a million barrels of oil, was chartered by Geneva-based oil trader Vitol SA and would head for China once loaded, according to Rajab Sahnoun, a senior official at the rebel-controlled Arabian Gulf Oil Co., or Agoco, in Tobruk.

The one-off shipment, only a tiny fraction of Libya's pre-crisis exports of around 1.6 million barrels a day, is viewed by analysts as a symbolic step forward.

Before the conflict, Libya was 17th among the world oil producers.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Libya's Ottawa embassy attacked

Police have arrested seven suspects after an incident at the Libyan Embassy in Ottawa.

Police were called in after a small group pushed their way into the embassy and started causing damage, said RCMP Sgt. Marc Menard.

"A couple of people went to the embassy," Menard said. "The embassy officials opened the door and they pushed their way through and started damaging property."

A worker was apparently attacked, he said.

RCMP and Ottawa police are still investigating the incident and charges are pending, he added.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soldiers kill three in Yemen

Tribesmen loyal to Yemen's embattled president yesterday clashed with soldiers whose commander has sided with the opposition.

The fighting in the capital, Sanaa, left three tribesmen dead, tribal elders and military officials said.

It was the latest violence in weeks of turmoil in Yemen, where President Ali Abdullah Saleh's forces have cracked down on protesters demanding he step down after 32 years.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bahrain boots out journalists

Bahrain authorities yesterday deported two journalists working for the opposition's main newspaper, their colleagues said.

The government has accused Al Wasat — Bahrain's most popular newspaper — of unethical coverage of the Shiite uprising against the Sunni rulers.

Bahrain has sharply tightened Internet and media controls under the military rule imposed last month.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Beware email scams: Experts

B.C. bookseller, Best Buy, Air Miles among Canadian victims in hacker theft of millions of email addresses

An online bookseller in Victoria is the latest victim of a security breach involving an American email marketing company.

In an email to customers, AbeBooks says it has been warned by Texas-based Epsilon, which handles the company's email, that email addresses of some AbeBooks clients have fallen into the hands of an unauthorized person. Epsilon says a rigorous assessment determined that no other personal information was compromised.

The breach was first revealed last week, when Epsilon cautioned retailer Best Buy and Air Miles E Reward Program members that millions of customers' names and email addresses had been hacked. Account information was not exposed, the company said.

Experts say that without passwords and other sensitive data, email addresses are of little use to criminals. But they can get past a spam filter and be used to craft online attacks.

AbeBooks urges clients to be cautious if they are asked for personal or account information in an email. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 52.19 (14,270.53)	+ 0.39¢ (103.75¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
– 13¢ US ($108.34 US)	$4.231 US (– 5.8¢ US)

Gold contracts $1,452.50 US (+ $19.50 US)

Oceans. Five

▶ Sir Richard Branson announces his latest business venture yesterday at Newport Beach, Calif.: Virgin Oceanic Expeditions, a deep-sea submarine, left, that will take him and others to the deepest parts of the world's oceans. "Man has not explored our oceans," Branson said. "If someone says something is impossible, we like to prove it's possible."

REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Staking out Virgin territory

Billionaire adventurer Sir Richard Branson plans to travel to the deepest parts of the world's five oceans in a single-person submarine. The Virgin Atlantic founder and fellow explorer Chris Welsh will take turns piloting the solo craft over the next two years, Branson said yesterday at Newport Beach, Calif., where he unveiled his latest business venture. Virgin Oceanic Expeditions extends the Virgin brand from outer space down to the depths of the oceans, but the adventure also has a scientific purpose, Branson said, and he is working with ocean research groups. Eventually, however, the plan is to build a larger submarine that can hold more people and offer trips to tourists — for a sizable fee.

This is Canada's year, thinkers say

A leading international think-tank says Canada will lead its G7 peers in economic growth during the first half of this year.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says the financial outlook has brightened for all G7 countries, with the exception of Japan. But the improvement has been most marked in Canada and to a lesser extent the United States.

Canada is expected to grow by 5.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2011, and 3.8 per cent in the second. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

TAKE A LEAP: SAVE THE FROGS

If you're tired of saving the whales, why not try saving something completely different?

Save the frogs! World Save The Frog Day is April 29, and if ever a species needed a hand, it's the Kermits of the world. These days, it definitely ain't easy being green. More than 200 species of frog are now extinct, and we'll be down to no frogs in no time if we don't do something.

Did you know our increasing appetite for frogs' legs alone takes 100 million frogs out of the wild each year?

Or that Atrazine, a pesticide, turns male frogs into female frogs at only 2.5 parts per billion? And it's only one of 18,000 pesticides registered in the U.S.

You name it, it's a threat.

Frogs are hunted for their legs, but also for the pet trade and lab dissections. Bullfrogs, native to the eastern U.S., unfortunately have the meatiest extremities, so they are shipped all over the place. When they escape into the wild, they take over, and are now the alpha frogs in 15 countries, muscling out local species.

Not only that, two-thirds of imported bullfrogs carry the deadly chytrid fungus, which further contributes to the wipeout of local frog populations.

Do I even have to make the case that frogs are cool? Is there a man out there who isn't carrying around an inner boy who used to catch frogs, name them, carry them in their pockets and use them to scare girls?

If that's not cool enough for you, frogs are amphibians, the world's oldest land vertebrates, with a pedigree going back more than 360 million years, long before dinosaurs stomped around the planet.

Other frog facts: The world's smallest is the Brazilian sapo-pulga, or flea frog, less than half an inch long (10 millimetres). The world's largest is the goliath frog, which can grow to a foot long (30 centimetres) and weigh more than three kilos! Both (of course) are endangered; the flea frog by pesticides, and the West African goliath by human appetite and loss of habitat.

On World Save The Frog Day, take action by raising the consciousness of local restaurants that serve wild frogs' legs, or take in Toronto's Frog Leap-A-Thon. Here's my favourite frog folly: Students at Texas Tech will go for a Guinness World Record by organizing the largest gathering of people wearing frog masks ever.

Or you can just raise your frog flag high. Whatever, the frogs will thank you.

Of course, there's lot's more frog-saving info at savethefrogs.com.

Save the frogs!

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Worth mentioning

ROME. Italian researchers said yesterday they will dig up bones in a Florence convent to try to identify the remains of a Renaissance woman long believed to be the model for the Mona Lisa.

If successful, the research might help ascertain the identity of the woman depicted in Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece — a mystery that has puzzled scholars and art lovers for centuries and generated countless theories.

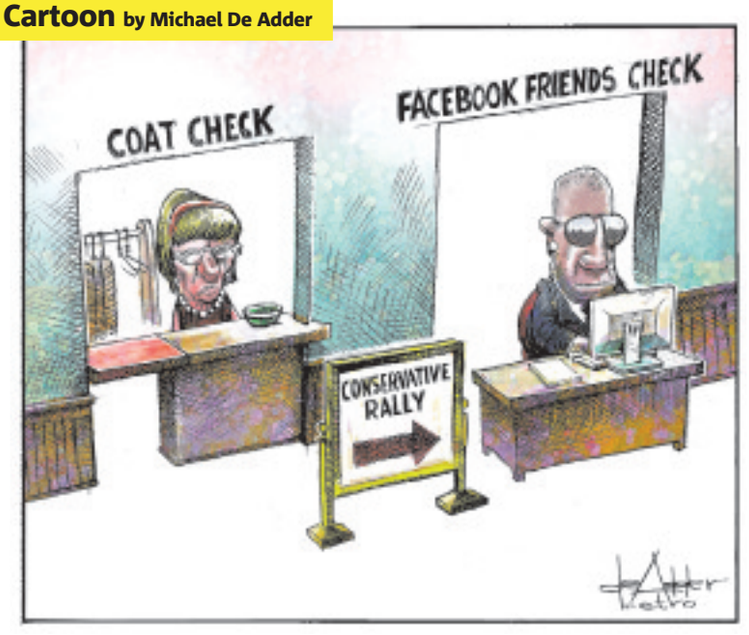
The project, launched yesterday, aims to locate the remains of Lisa Gherardini, the wife of a rich silk merchant named Francesco del Giocondo.

Tradition has long linked Gherardini to the painting, which is known in Italian as "La Gioconda" and in French as "La Joconde." Giorgio Vasari, a 16th-century artist and biographer of Leonardo, wrote that da Vinci painted a portrait of del Giocondo's wife.

Gherardini was born in 1479. A few years ago, an amateur Italian historian said he had found a death certificate showing she died July 15, 1542, and her final resting place is in central Florence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael De Adder



WEIRD NEWS

As long as the marriage isn't a disaster

Honeymoons aren't always easy for newlyweds, but six natural disasters?

When Stefan and Erika Svanstrom of Stockholm set out on their four-month-long honeymoon with their baby girl on Dec. 6, they say they got more than they bargained for: Immediately, they were stranded in Munich, Germany, due to one of Europe's worst snowstorms, he said.

But that was just the beginning.

After that, he said, they experienced the devastation of a cyclone in Cairns, Australia, and the flooding in Brisbane, and narrowly escaped the bush fires in Perth.

"We escaped by the skin of our teeth," Svanstrom said, recalling how they were evacuated in Cairns and were forced to spend 24 hours on a cement floor in a shopping centre with 2,500 others.

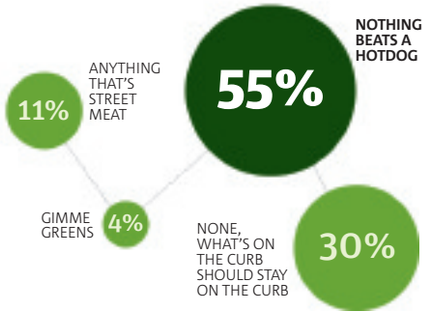
Just before they arrived in New Zealand, the 6.3-magnitude earthquake hit Christchurch and in Tokyo, they felt Japan's largest temblor since records began, he said.

Svanstrom said he also survived the devastating tsunami that hit southeast Asia in 2004.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Take the poll online at metronews.ca

Eat St. debuts tonight on Food Network. What's your favourite street eat?



TODAY'S QUESTION: WHERE DO YOUR SMARTPHONE LOYALTIES LIE?

Local tweets

- **@kvl:** Best part of #ldnont: standing on the street corner and running into a dozen people you know and having a dozen different conversations.
- **@ama_rie:** sigh ... 15•C yesterday and it's snowing today ... we really do get 4 seasons in one week here in #ldnont
- **@Just2BMeNetwork:** Ladies size 16 — 8x... Clothing Swap/Consignment sale this Saturday — check www.just2bme.ca for details
- **@CreativeMatt:** Weather can't make up its mind. Snowing today? C'mon.
- **@stephiloo:** Only two more days of year one classes. =) #uwo
- **@TBreezy34:** just got on the #uwo internet!!! That's what you call #winning!!!
- **@VortexVisual:** Got my Cheeky umbrella today at @CuriositiesGS in Wortley Village. That should pretty much guarantee some sunshine. Thx Heather!
- **@tgings:** ahh last week of classes... when all the interesting creatures that never come to class come out of the woodwork #hedoesntevengohere #uwo

metro
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2 scene

Comical

Peter Griffin and his long put-upon, but funny, family are heading to the pages of their own comic book series. Titan Comics and Twentieth Century Fox Consumer Products says that Peter; his wife, Lois; kids Meg, Chris and Stewie; along with family dog and martini aficionado, Brian, will headline their own series on July 27. Titan says the series also will feature other characters from its television counterpart, including Glen Quagmire, Cleveland Brown and Joe Swanson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stone Cold Steve Austin turned down 'Dancing With the Stars,' but supports Chris Jericho

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

BRANDING A REMAKE ROLE

It's a dangerous business trying to recapture movie magic, but Hollywood execs keep trying

Thirty years ago Dudley Moore introduced us to Arthur, a lovable but drunken millionaire playboy about to married to a wealthy heiress he did not love. "I race cars, play tennis, and fondle women," he said, "but I have weekends off, and I am my own boss."

The movie, Arthur, was a giant hit coming in fourth in the year's box office, earning four Oscar nods, winning two and spawning the number one hit Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do).

It's available on DVD and holds up very well, which is why it is a bit baffling that a remake of the same name is hitting theatres this weekend starring Russell Brand.

Remakes, of course, are nothing new. Hollywood has been recycling ideas since the beginning. For example, Cecil B. DeMille remade his own 1915 film The Golden Chance as Forbidden Fruit just six years later. The difference is that back then there was no portable archive of movies available on Blu Ray or streaming video. Older movies were essentially inaccessible to most people so a remake was simply good business. Take a good story, repackage it and hopefully do good at the box office. Later, in the pre-home video years, remakes were a way to breathe some life into older movies by giving their stories a facelift with modern stars.

But times have changed. Now, via Netflix, On-Demand and Blu Ray, it's easier and cheaper than ever to seek out and see movies like the original Arthur.

So what's the point of the remake?

Well, for one thing, it's a perfect role for the impish Russell Brand and, for another, it's always great to see his co-star Helen Mirren on screen. And who knows? Maybe it's better than the original. It wouldn't be the first time.

With so many remakes — past, present and future — perhaps philosopher Raoul Vaneigem was right when he said, "Our task is not to rediscover nature but to remake it."

HANDOUT

▶ Dudley Moore

ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Russell Brand stars in the remake of Dudley Moore's Arthur.

A connection to his character

▶ Russell Brand credits hard partying years as reason for success at role ▶ Admits a fondness for his co-star

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

For comedian Russell Brand, updating the drunken, childish millionaire made famous by Dudley Moore 30 years ago in Arthur came naturally — perhaps a little too naturally.

"I'm such a thorough actor that I did two decades of research into alcoholism just to make sure it was 100 per cent right," jokes Brand, himself a recovering alcoholic and drug addict. "The difference of course is that Arthur is a fictional alcoholic and has much more latitude for clowning and fun, and often his adventures don't lead to broken glass and howling women."

But in updating the story for today — the immature Arthur must choose between marrying a cold but wealthy woman (Jennifer Garner) or follow his heart and lose everything — Brand was insistent that his character's bacchanalian style of living not be showing in a completely glamorous light.

"It was very important that we established a context where the alcoholism was humorous and good fun but was not irresponsibly portrayed," he says.

"This is 2011, and it's important to see a resolution to the problem of Arthur's alcoholism, and that's one of the aspects — as a recovering alcoholic myself, I was particularly happy with how that was rendered."

Playing opposite Greta Gerwig was a treat, Brand admits.

"We saw loads and loads of different actresses, which was all right — but of course I was already on the way to getting married then, so I couldn't enjoy it like the good old days, where auditions had a rather more primal quality," Brand jokes.

But there was something about Gerwig's reading that left an impression.

"Afterward I was sitting quietly and (director) Jason (Winer) said, 'Oh, what's the matter?' I said, 'I feel sad now that she's gone,'" Brand says. "And it's because I enjoyed playing with her. She has such a brilliant imagination, she's a great improviser with a wonderful understanding of comedy, a wide range of ideas, peculiar choices — but good peculiar."

Gerwig even admits that she's developed a serious crush on her co-star, Something Brand smarts at the notion of.

"Can't do nothing about it now. Just useless," he says. "Just a wonderful, useless thing, like a yacht in the middle of Idaho."

Relationship

How being married helped him connect

Character Of course, it wasn't just Arthur's penchant for a party that Brand identified with. Another, more recent change in his life — his relationship with and marriage to Katy Perry — also helped him connect to the material, since Arthur is caught off guard when he meets a not-so-wealthy young woman played by Greta Gerwig. "My life has been changed by falling in love, so I know that whilst that is a romantic idea and in this case fictional, it's something that has happened to me," Brand says. "That's why I'm so enamored of this story."

Those are the breaks in surfing

After a shark attack that lasted a few moments but claimed her arm, Bethany Hamilton went on to become a pro surfer, an inspiration and an author ◗ Hamilton's pleased the film — based on her book — doesn't promote shark-phobia

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Pro surfer Bethany Hamilton shot to fame after her inspiring return to surfing following a shark attack that cost her her left arm in 2003. Now the 21-year-old Hawaiian native gets the surreal experience of watching her story recounted on screen in Soul Surfer.

Metro spoke with Hamilton about seeing her life on screen, getting her story told the right way and balancing movie responsibilities, her surfing schedule and charity work.

What was your reaction when you saw the finished film?

Seeing the final cut, I was just stoked. I was kind of just nervous what Hollywood would do with a true story. But my family and I being able to give input and feedback on the script really helped it just stay true to who we are and authentic.

What did you think of AnnaSophia Robb, who plays you in the film?

AnnaSophia is amazing. I think she did so well just capturing who I am and my outlook on life. We became really good friends and got to hang out, and I taught her to surf. I think just by her getting to know me really just helped her show who I am to the world.

Was there any parts of the movie that were harder to watch than others?

No, I don't feel like I'm reliving it at all. And I've healed really well from everything, so it's been nice to not be so emotional and just be able to watch it and critique it and help it to be more accurate.

The shark attack, for example, really was very accurate to how it actually happened. It was just really quick — in and out of there real quick, and I didn't see anything. So I think that's kind of nice, because I didn't want to cause shark-phobia. I hope it doesn't scare people away from the water.

Your work with relief organization World Vision after the 2005 tsunami in Thailand plays a major part in the film. Have you been doing anything similar after the Japanese tsunami?

I've been tweeting about it a bit just to keep people's awareness and not to forget. So often when tragic stuff happens, it's like, "Oh no, look at this, this is awful!" And then you just forget the next day.

But I approached World Vision to see if I could go, but I don't know. I wish it was a different time, because I've always wanted to go to Japan, even before the tsunami. It's really sad. The Japanese people are just so beautiful.

Where are you in the pro surfing calendar now?

It just started. I had one event so far this year, which didn't go so well. I'm not really expecting much with all the distractions with the movie, but I'll still compete this year and hopefully get back into the groove of things soon.

HANDOUT

▶ Pro surfer Bethany Hamilton's story is being told in the film Soul Surfer.

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ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILES

Katie Holmes and daughter Suri

Big plans for Suri's birthday

Mom Katie plans pool party, piñata for 5th birthday bash

Katie Holmes is gearing up for daughter Suri's birthday.

"She's turning five in about two weeks. She wants a piñata and her girlfriends to come over [and go] swimming. We're gonna make a cake together," Holmes tells Ryan Seacrest during a radio interview.

"This is my favourite day of the year. So we're gonna have a little tea party, and I like to girl it up." METRO

Christina Aguilera

Aguilera: Not the best year

Christina Aguilera is willing to admit that, between her divorce, botching the National Anthem at the Super Bowl and getting arrested for public intoxication, she's been having a rough year.

"There have been obvious setbacks. It's a life-uprooting time and there have been hiccups along the way that unfortunately the whole world gets to witness and judge," Aguilera says, according to Us Weekly.

"I can laugh about my own hiccups and my own experiences in life because I'm getting through it." METRO

Bublé robbed during wedding

While singer Michael Bublé and actress Luisana Lopilato were tying the knot in Argentina over the weekend, their home was burglarized, according to TMZ.

No one was home at the time, and it was not revealed how much was stolen.

Despite the incident, the wedding weekend continues.

"I will not let this ruin the happiest day of my life," Lopilato told reporters. METRO

Michael Bublé

Franco: Twitter is so over

After a brief foray into Twitter, James Franco is over the whole concept.

"Social media is over. Still up there. Going down. You heard it here first," Franco says, according to Politico. The actor, who live-Tweeted during his Oscars hosting gig, has made his own account private. "My thought was, 'This is my Twitter. I can do whatever I want.' But certain companies I work with contacted me about what I was saying," he explains. METRO

Celebrity tweets

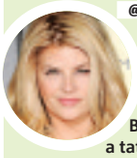
@gypsyhearttour

"Do not fear...the Sheenius is here!" I'm not gonna lie. I came back to twitter for 2 reasons. My fans and to follow @charliesheen"

@justinbieber

"sick show in Berlin ...brought @studio mama on stage 2 sing her happy bday but she lit her hair on fire with the candles. lol. i saved her"

@kirstiealley



"Party girl? not so much tonight... BUT I did get a tattoo and I love it....and I had fun"

@ConanOBrien

"If I'm ever a ghost, I hope the person I haunt has Netflix."

Just having fun, really

Despite speculation they're romancing each other, newly single Justin Timberlake and Olivia Wilde aren't in any rush to get into a new relationship, according to Popeater.

"Justin and Olivia became close working together on Now. They are both newly single and both want to get out and have fun with friends, but they are not an item," a source says.

Rumors started swirling after the pair was spotted getting cosy at a Hollywood nightclub recently, but "Justin and Olivia just wanted to have some fun. But it wasn't romantic," the source insists. METRO

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Ashley Judd memoir: Childhood was chaos

In her new memoir, Ashley Judd recounts the turmoil she suffered being the daughter of a working musician.

"My mother, while she was transforming herself into the country legend Naomi Judd, created an origin myth for the Judds that did not match my reality," Ashley writes, according to Radar Online.

"I was taught to believe that our lifestyle was normal and never to question it or complain, even when I was left alone for hours, sometimes days at a time, or when I was passed without warning to yet another relative."

Ashley reveals that "there was always marijuana inside the house" and her father, Michael Ciminella, "was prone to taking hallucinogenics with friends on Saturday nights." METRO

Ashley Judd

- Sin city has a pair of new attractions related to the town's ties with organized crime
- Musuem will have wide variety of artifacts, as well as protect historical buildings
- Tropicana's 'Mob Experience' gives visitors a chance to get 'made"

JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A limo once belonging to mobster Bugsy Siegel is seen on display at the Mob Experience at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. The Mob Experience is an interactive attraction featuring gangster memorabilia and commentary from film mobsters James Caan, Mickey Rourke and Frank Vincent.

Vegas embraces its organized past

Speakeasies, bootleggers, gun-wielding crime bosses and tough-guy accents pay homage to Las Vegas' mob roots in a pair of new attractions showcasing Sin City's criminal history.

An interactive attraction featuring gangster memorabilia and commentary from film mobsters James Caan, Mickey Rourke and Frank Vincent opened last week on the Las Vegas Strip. And Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, a former mob defence lawyer, plans to launch his Las Vegas Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement later this year. For Las Vegas, the attractions represent an unprecedented embrace of its infamous founders.

"What differentiates us from any other city is our history," Goodman said. "This is the story of America."

JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Actors playing mobsters act out a scene at the Mob Experience at the Tropicana in Las Vegas.

The desert oasis made famous by scantily-clad showgirls, ubiquitous slot machines and 24-hour happy hours has long celebrated its reputation as a haven of vice, but its relationship with the mob has taken a few hits in recent years. The city that once proudly boasted of its ties to organized crime — Goodman played himself in the 1995 mob movie Casino — has instead promoted its family-friendly restaurants and Broadway shows for the past decade.

No more.

The Tropicana casino and hotel, a one-time hangout for organized crime now more known for its bargain-counter room rates, celebrated its new "Mob Experience" attraction last week with a red carpet party attended by the son of Tony "The Ant" Spilotro, the inspiration for the bloodthirsty Joe Pesci character in Casino.

The sprawling casino attraction features the diary of mobster Meyer Lansky, Spilotro's gun and family photos and home movies from other infamous criminals.

Visitors are greeted by life-size holograms of chatty gangsters and a chance to get "made."

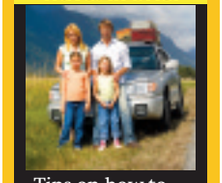
The publicly-funded mob museum, meanwhile, is slated to open in December at a downtown Las Vegas courthouse where a detailed mob hearing that helped expose organized crime to ordinary Americans was held in 1950.

The $42 million museum started as an effort to save one of Las Vegas' few historic buildings. It's amassed a wide collection of gangster artifacts, including the wall from Chicago's St. Valentine's Day massacre, the only gun recovered at the mass shooting and the barber chair where hit man Albert Anastasia's life came to an end in 1957.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 life

Travel in brief



Tips on how to deal with long car trips.

- Pack several different entertainment items suited for each child. When they tire of one, they can move on to the next.
- Pack healthy snacks that your kids enjoy. Time travels more slowly when you're hungry.
- Stop and smell the roses: scenic look–outs and picnic areas are great places to let kids burn off some of that boundless energy.
- Old favourites: time flies when you're doing group activities like singing songs together, playing I Spy or seeing how many provincial and state licence plates you can count.

NEWS CANADA

Gulf Coast tourism officials 'cautiously optimistic' about prospects for 2011

Acapulco's been a draw for good reasons

The cliffs are just a small part of what makes this Pacific city so great

John Wayne slept here.

And so did Tarzan, or at least Johnny Weissmuller, the man who created the famous yodelling call used by every successive loincloth-clad, vine-swinger in Hollywood.

"Here" is Los Flamingos, a tiny pinkwashed stucco hotel, perched about 275 metres above the Pacific Ocean, on the edge of the cliffs that form part of Acapulco's Old Town.

"This way, that's Tarzan's round house," says Carlos Serrano, the cab driver who brought me to one of the symbols of what Acapulco once was — a playground for the rich, the famous and, most of all, for Hollywood stars.

SCOTT EDMONDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Tarzan's round house at Los Flamingos in Old Town Acapulco.

Weissmuller, an Olympic gold-medal-winning swimmer, wasn't the first Tarzan, but he became the best known and played Edgar Rice Burroughs' jungle-raised ape man in a dozen films. The cool wind off the Pacific, even on a 30-degree-plus day, is a reminder of why the location was great in an age before air conditioning. Now however, all the action has moved down the hill directly to the bay itself.

There, and at the Diamante resort area just southeast of Acapulco proper, are the huge hotels, condominiums and time-shares that still swell Acapulco's native population with thousands of visitors.

It's easy to see the attraction the ancient city on the Pacific holds for visitors. Checking the winter weather forecast seems pointless when the chances are 10-to-1 it will be 30 and sunny. OK, sometimes it's 32 and sunny.

Acapulco is a city of ups and downs once you move away from Costera Miguel Aleman, the broad boulevard choked with traffic that runs along the beach. There are hillside discos where you can dance the night away and first-class restaurants that show off Mexican and international cuisine. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDUARDO VERDUGO/THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

▶ A cliff diver performs at La Quebrada, in Acapulco, Mexico. You can watch the divers from a perch just in front of the cliffs for 40 pesos (about $4).

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Travel Jun 14 - Jun 20/wg — + taxes & fees $306

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Travel Apr 12 - May 2/ts — + taxes & fees $292

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Departs Jun 23/ggv/wg.

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Departs Jun 11/vat/ts.

Rome Air + First 2 Nights $507
H10 Roma Citta — + taxes & fees $389
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Departs Jun 12/vat/ts. ADD 3-day Italy Rail Pass for $181.

Ireland Air + First 2 Nights 4-Star $585
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INCLUDES breakfast and your first 2 nights accom close to the city centre, shopping & entertainment.
Departs May 16/vat/ts.

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Departs Jun 9/ggv/fi.

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Can mushrooms bring out the love?

LARRY CROWE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This stroganoff is great served over brown or red rice as well as mashed potatoes or the more traditional noodles.

Spicy Moroccan soup, South African bobotie, lentil curry from Nepal, even Mexican burritos.

When you're looking to cook up some vegetarian love, the world's cuisines offer plenty of ways to stimulate the senses.

"It's a lovely way to do it, especially if you've been somewhere and you want to recreate a magical moment," says Troth Wells, author of One World Vegetarian Cookbook.

Oysters and steak with bearnaise have long been the standard for "romantic" meals, but Wells says the inherent sensuality of vegetables will tickle the senses without leaving you too full to frolic after.

And then there are the spices. Considered aphrodisiacs by many ancient cultures, spices such as nutmeg are said to increase amorous function. Chili releases endorphins, while cinnamon, cardamom and cloves have historically been considered erotic scents.

"Like diamonds and perfume, anything that's expensive and requires some dangerous exploits to get it has some sexual excitement to it," she says.

Mushroom Stroganoff

Preparation:

1. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat oil. Add onion and sauté for 4 minutes. Add garlic and sauté for another 30 seconds.
2. Increase heat to high and add mushrooms, paprika and nutmeg. Sauté for 10 minutes or until mushrooms are soft and brown.
3. Add wine and balsamic vinegar, stir well. Bring to a simmer reduce heat and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in cilantro, then creme fraiche. Season with salt and pepper. Serve over rice, mashed potatoes or noodles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ RECIPE ADAPTED FROM ONE WORLD VEGETARIAN COOKBOOK BY TROTH WELLS (INTERLINK, 2011)

Ingredients:

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) canola oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 500 g (1 lb) button or mixed mushrooms, sliced or quartered
- 5 ml (1 tsp) paprika
- Pinch nutmeg
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) white wine
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) balsamic vinegar
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) fresh cilantro
- 90 ml (6 tbsp) creme fraiche
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

Gourmet eats on the streets

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THE FOOD NETWORK HO

Eat St.'s host James Cunningham profiles street vendors and discovers that many have a high-end edge

▶ Comedian James Cunningham hosts Eat St., which spotlights popular street eats.

Canadian comedian James Cunningham has noticed what he calls a "revolution" taking shape in North America's gourmet food world — mouth-watering mobile meals.

As host of the Vancouver-produced series Eat St., debuting tonight on Food Network Canada, Cunningham has been travelling around the U.S. (with a stop in B.C. as well) for the past nine months to profile popular street eats.

Along the way, he's noticed that many food trucks and carts these days are far from your average greasy-spoon street stop — they're run by professional chefs serving comfort dishes with a gourmet edge.

"It's a gourmet restaurant without the restaurant"

JAMES CUNNINGHAM, HOST OF FOOD NETWORK'S EAT ST.

"With what's been happening with the economy ... we have all these chefs looking for a way to bring their food to the people," the Toronto native said.

"Either you sink a whole bunch of money into a restaurant or you do what they did: Get really creative, open up a food truck and serve this great gourmet stuff to people on the street."

The first episode of Eat St. (airing at 9:30 p.m. ET) opens with a profile of the Grilled Cheese Truck in L.A., which has a rabid following and a menu that includes the Cheesy Mac&Rib (southern-style macaroni and cheese, pulled smoked pork and caramelized onions) and the Brie Melt (made on cranberry-walnut bread with pears and honey).

Then it's off to Austin, Tex., to visit two stationary trailers — Izzoz Tacos and the G'Raj Mahal, which serves authentic dishes from Goa, India. The final stop is Schnitzel & Things mobile food truck in New York City.

"It blows your mind because whenever you walk up to a street truck you think: 'Oh, I'll get a hot dog, I'll get my little gyro, or I'll get my fries," said Cunningham, whose TV credits include Last Comic Standing.

"And what comes out of that window is just unbelievable."

"Streeteries" profiled in upcoming episodes include a lobster cart, a pulled-pork truck and a mobile converted school bus that serves classic French cuisine.

In B.C., stops include Victoria's Red Fish Blue Fish (a stationary retrofitted shipping container that serves seafood) and Vancouver's Japa Dog cart, which serves hot dogs with a Japanese twist.

"It seems like Vancouver's on the cutting edge of food trucks in terms of Canada, for now," said Cunningham, noting B.C. has better weather for street food than most parts of the country.

"But I think once the show starts to air, (more street food) is going to pop up. My brother is actually a chef and he saw the first episode and he was like, 'That is brilliant ... Your public is right there, you get instant feedback.'"

Cunningham said most of the street-food businesses the show visited seemed to be thriving, with long lineups that caused some trucks to run out of food.

Customers enjoy street fare so much because it's an experience, he noted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

How to make that PowerPoint pop

Click, click, click, snooze? Keep your colleagues awake with these tips on perfecting the work presentation

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK

Wake up those workers!

When the moment comes to deliver a sales pitch or propose a project, all too many speech-shy professionals fall back on what may be the modern world's most tedious way to present an idea: PowerPoint.

Speech coaches say there's no better tool for turning a slide show into a drag.

"I myself like PowerPoint, I just don't like what people do with it," bemoans Elayne Snyder, public speaking expert. "They put a whole bunch of stuff up on the screen, which is the worse thing there is to do."

Cramming your slides with fine text could make your PowerPoint feel power pointless. To avoid the temptation, script your speech on a scrap of paper.

"When delivering the presentation never look at the screen. People don't want to see the back of your head."
ELAINE SNYDER, PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERT

"Don't put together your presentation in PowerPoint," speech coach Patricia Fripp recommends. "Build it on a pad of paper, a white board, or on a flip chart, and then ask yourself, where absolutely must I add the PowerPoint?"

With a good script, you might be surprised how little you need it.

"If you're engaging the audience, and you're telling a story, you won't need PowerPoint," she says. "But if you're looking to illustrate a point, you might want to have a chart, or a graph, or a diagram. Or, if it's a learning session, you just put bullet points of what you want people to remember."

One of the biggest dangers in using a slide show in a pitch isn't what it does to your speech – it's what it does to your body language.

"When delivering the presentation, never look at the screen," Snyder stresses. "People don't want to see the back of your head."

Fixating your eyes on the audience in front of you conveys confidence, she adds. And long after that audience has forgotten the contents of slide 27 — or how quirky the animated .gif was on slide 42 – they will remember the impression they took away of you.

"A speech is all about building rapport with the audience," Fripp concurs. "If the audience is reading your PowerPoint, then they can't listen and pay attention to you."

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Workplace Law

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BEWARE THE ONLINE BUY

People often get exactly what they pay for. This is as true in law as it is in life. Here is one story that should give people pause when they are offered legal services over the Internet.

Recently, a couple came to me seeking a second opinion following a dispute with a temporary contractor they hired, or so they thought. They had found a lawyer online, selling precedent "contracts" at a discount. Since this couple was new to their business, they were unfortunately drawn to this lawyer's website, believing they would get a solid product without spending money on a lawyer's time

The couple explained that they had sought to hire an individual contractor to complete a few tasks. After that, they would not need him anymore. They swiftly purchased one of this lawyer's "contracts" online and gave it to the individual to sign, not realizing that what they had purchased was much different from what they actually needed the contractor to sign.

After he had completed his tasks within the first six months, the contractor's job was done. No problem there. However, the contract they had signed guaranteed him one year's worth of work. Even though the individual was no longer needed, when the couple attempted to end his employment early, he demanded pay for the remaining six months, arguing that his contract was for a defined term.

The problem is that the contract they bought online did not allow them to end the job early without paying for the remaining time on the contract (something that most employment lawyers should spot as a matter of course) and, worse yet, the lawyer who sold it to them had not bothered to discuss that with them, since they never even met! As this couple now owed the contractor twice the fee they initially expected to pay him, the "contract" they bought online ultimately cost them much more than they paid for it.

What should the public do? Avoid purchasing legal products over the Internet, however tempting that may be. There are few rules that limit lawyers without much experience in employment law from professing that they practise it on their websites and in the media – and unfortunately they do, often to the public's detriment.

A grip on the grind

Papers piling up at a rapid pace? Learn how to handle your workload

ISTOCK

Are all those little birdies falling quickly out of line?

TINA CHADHA
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

If most days at work your to-do list is left undone, you drag assignments home when you should be relaxing and 500 or so unread e-mails point their fingers at you every time you open your inbox — then it's time to get organized. Laura Leist, an organization and productivity consultant, gives us tips:

1 "It's always best to plan for the next day at the end of day," says Leist. "I say pick three really important things that you need to get done. A lot of times people pick too many things to do and they feel like nothing is accomplished."

2 "Once you picked your three tasks, those are things you should do first." She recommends holding off on the little things you can scratch off the list first. "You want to work toward getting the bigger stuff done."

3 "It's unrealistic to say you're going to work on a project for eight hours in the day, because things always come up," says Leist.

"It's more realistic to say, 'I'm going to spend two or three hours a day on this project.' Then you'll have other time during those days to work on other projects, too."

4 Implement a task-management system — and use it daily.

"You need something to keep track of the current things you're working on and a place to store your ideas for future projects," says Leist.

She suggests applications such as TeuxDeux.com, RememberTheMilk.com and ActionMethod.com.

5 "Use your calendar to schedule projects you are working on, meetings and networking things you're going to," says Leist.

This way, you can look back at the end of the day or week and see what didn't get accomplished. Then move those tasks forward to the following day or week.

Mom, that snack's not healthy

Meet Mrs. Ciccarelli's Grade 3 class, a crack team of junior nutritionists

If you are browsing for cereal in a Thornhill grocery store, you may be stopped by a boy or girl from Mrs. Ciccarelli's Grade 3 class.

Her 19 students at St. Michael Catholic Academy have been learning about healthy eating and are eager to share their knowledge.

Cereals — and how to choose a nutritious one — are one of their areas of expertise.

Mrs. Ciccarelli's students also know how to read ingredient lists and decode nutrition labels on food packaging.

They know produce that comes from faraway countries is not as good — for you or for the environment — as fruits and vegetables grown close to home.

And they know to be wary of suspicious nutrition claims and foods that are riddled with artificial colours and flavours.

A visitor to Mrs. Ciccarelli's class will learn a lot from the students.

Healthy eating is part of the Grade 3 curriculum, which primarily focuses on Canada's Food Guide. For Fran Ciccarelli, the standard information wasn't enough.

"The students only needed to know the four food groups and some examples of foods that are healthy and what are not," she says. "I take it one step further. Once we start looking at food labels, the kids ask more and more questions and it just snowballs from there."

One of the students' favourite class exercises is to investigate the ingredients of popular grocery store foods. They were recently shocked to find out a yogurt drink did not contain actual yogurt.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Kids know best

Grocery 101s from Grade 3s

- **Maya Piasecki:** "If there is lots of colour and lots of advertisements, like puzzles, on a package don't take that one. Take ones that are plain. Don't fall for advertisements."
- **Olivia Thalassinos:** "If sugar is the first ingredient it's not that healthy for you so you shouldn't have that much of it."
- **Jordan Macedo-VanHorne:** "Don't eat foods with food colouring because they are bad for you."

Dr. Twitter, please help

Medically-minded Twitterers are spreading important info via the web

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colleen Young says #hmsca Twitter followers discuss topics such as how to use doscial media to get health conversations started in rural areas.

Keeping up to date on the barrage of medical information available online can be daunting, and health-care professionals are now turning to social media to figure out how to make it easier.

Every Wednesday, as many as 70 health-minded Twitterers meet online to debate — in 140 characters or less — the best ways to use the web to get accurate information to those who want it, without overwhelming them with an unmanageable number of tweets or viral videos.

"There are a lot of people and organizations struggling with how to do that on social media, in health care in particular," said Colleen Young, who started the Healthcare Social Media Canada (#hcsmca) group last September.

Getting health-care professionals and the public talking will help organizations understand what kind of online content users find most valuable, explained Young, a freelance medical writer for cancer organizations and patients.

"There are very definite ways that they want to get public health messages."

Young said that patients are more interested in a two-way conversation with health providers. Rather than being bombarded by only links to a new anti-smoking campaign or research on healthy eating, users want to share their own news or opinions with health-care groups and hear back if they find it interesting.

"The organizations have to make a wholesale change of attitude and that is that they're not just pumping out information."

Canadian hospitals are increasingly interested in looking into expanding their social media use beyond one-way education, said Ann Fuller, who is the director of communications at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

"As hospitals in Canada we have to sometimes do more and more with less and less. Is there a way for social media to fill that gap?"

Fuller said group conversations like #hcsmca can help hospitals who are investigating how online resources could supplement clinical visits or long-term care management for conditions like asthma.

"So that people can stay connected," she explained, "and by staying connected their clinical outcomes could improve."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"It seems that everyone has pretty much got Mickelson in the green jacket Sunday evening and there's not much use in turning up at this point. He's a great player around Augusta, and if you finish ahead of him, you've got a decent chance."

U.S. OPEN CHAMPION GRAEME MCDOWELL ON PHIL MICKELSON BEING THE FAVOURITE TO WIN THE MASTERS.

Scan code for more sports

Tiger seeks a way back

A year later, Woods still trying to figure out a way to come back from shame No. 1 for most of his career, he's now seventh and fading fast

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tiger Woods speaks to the media yesterday at Augusta National Golf Club.

The circus is largely gone and so, mostly, are the questions about his personal life. Tiger Woods returned to the Masters this week without feeling the urge to apologize for anything, even the poor state of his game.

A year ago, the chairman of Augusta National lectured him about his conduct and what it meant to the game of golf. Yesterday, he was welcomed back to his 17th Masters as a four-time champion who means so much to golf.

A lot has changed for Woods in the year since he emerged from self-imposed exile following his sex scandal. What hasn't changed is that some of his play has been almost as embarrassing as the revelations about his personal life.

The man who once wowed fans with booming drives and precision irons now struggles to keep up with his playing partners. The player who never used to miss a six-footer now can only shake his head as the putts don't come near the hole.

Woods says it's nothing more than finding his way through a new swing change. Others who know something about human failings believe it may go a lot deeper than fairways and greens.

"He's got experience coming back from technical problems, but he doesn't have experience coming back from shame," said Sharon Chirban, a Harvard sports psychologist who coaches athletes in her private practice. "Until the shame is managed, he will never come back to the level of play he had before."

What is going on in his golf game seems pretty murky, though Woods insisted again yesterday that his only problems are refining his new swing and figuring out a way to make more putts. It's been his stock answer since he came out of seclusion here last year amid a circus that included planes flying overhead carrying banners taunting him, tabloids stalking him, and so many reporters wanting to ask him questions that tickets had to be issued for his pre-tournament press conference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada keeps pace with Scots

5-3

Switzerland's Christof Schwaller won his third straight to sit at 5-3 behind the leaders.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Jeff Stoughton

Canada's Jeff Stoughton kept pace with Scotland's Tom Brewster at the Ford World Curling Championship with an 11-5 win over Thomas Dufour of France yesterday.

The Canadians and Scots were tied atop the leaderboard at 6-0, setting up a battle between unbeaten teams last night.

The top four teams at the conclusion of the preliminary round Thursday advance to the Page playoff.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flyers look to return Leighton to their roster

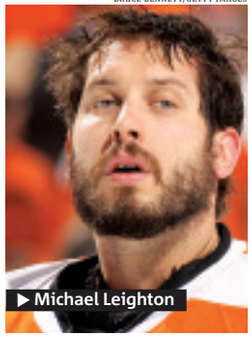
The Flyers placed goaltender Michael Leighton on re-entry waivers yesterday with the hope that he can rejoin Philadelphia's post-season roster.

General manager Paul Holmgren confirmed the move, which allows a 24-hour period for other teams to claim him at half of his remaining contract, while the Flyers would pay the other half. If he is unclaimed by noon today, he would be able to join the Flyers again.

Leighton, 29, one of many heroes in Philadelphia's improbable run to the Stanley Cup finals last season as a No. 7 seed, was originally placed on waivers on Jan. 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Michael Leighton

Ballpark attack may lead to brain damage

A San Francisco Giants fan who was beaten at Dodger Stadium after last week's opening game shows signs of brain damage and remains in critical condition, a doctor said yesterday.

Meanwhile, detectives were looking into unconfirmed reports that the same suspects struck other Giants fans minutes before the attack that left Bryan Stow in a coma.

Stow, a 42-year-old paramedic and father of two from Santa Cruz, remained in critical but guarded condition at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL dispute heads to court

- Players asking for immediate end to lockout
- Bargaining will resume if judge grants injunction

With the lockout at three weeks and no end in sight, attorneys for the NFL and its locked-out players will go before a federal judge today in the first round of their fight over the future of the $9-billion business — including the 2011 season.

The players — with stars like Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees among the plaintiffs and retirees and yet-to-play rookies — are asking for an immediate end to the lockout on the basis of "irreparable harm" to their careers. The injunction request accompanies the antitrust lawsuit filed against the league after labour talks broke down on March 11.

GAIL BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ NFL commissioner Roger Goodell talks to reporters Monday.

The league says it has the right to keep players from working and says the court must wait until the National Labor Relations Board rules on its claim that the players didn't negotiate in good faith.

The first work stoppage in the NFL since the 1987 strike has developed into one of the all-time nasty disputes in sports. The players balked at more financial concessions when the owners wouldn't open their books, and the owners insist the decertification of the union is a sham cooked up only to apply leverage in the fight.

Now, they don't even agree on which laws apply to the case, with the owners arguing for labour law and the players preferring antitrust rules.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson will hold the hearing in St. Paul, Minn. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Champs. Land

▶ Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun and Kemba Walker arrive for a rally at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Conn., yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fans welcome Huskies

Junior playmaker Kemba Walker averaged 23.7 points during March Madness for Connecticut and became the 14th player to join the "Huskies of Honor" yesterday. He is the first player to receive the honour while still in school. About 7,500 UConn fans came to Gampel Pavilion, yesterday to celebrate Monday night's 53-41 win over Butler.

James just a bucket from history

LeBron James speaks often of his appreciation for NBA history.

Tonight, he'll likely make some.

He needs two points to reach 2,000 for the season, which would put him on a list alongside some of the game's greatest players. He would become the eighth player to score 2,000 points seven times — and at age 26, the youngest.

"It means a lot," James said. "There's a lot of hard work that goes into it and I just try to go out on the court and be the best player I can every night."

The other players with seven 2,000 points season — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain, Alex English, Michael Jordan, Karl Malone, Oscar Robertson and Dominique Wilkins — are in the Basketball Hall of Fame. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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5 drive

By comparison

Volvo XC60 AWD
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Engine performance

A mix of new and old can be found beneath the Touareg's freshly formed hood. A 280-horsepower 3.6-litre V6 (TSI) carries over as the base gasoline engine.

Still optional is a 225-horsepower 3.0-litre V6 turbo-diesel (TDI) that makes 406 pound-feet of torque.

The TDI is rated at 11.9 l/100 km in the city and 8.0 on the highway, compared with 12.3/8.8 l/100 km for the TSI.

Wider, shorter and lighter

The Touareg is now a bit wider, but shorter than before and has been stretched by about 3.8 centimetres between the front and rear wheels.

However, the greatest singular advancement is in the 160 kilograms that have been excised from the vehicle. Most of the seven-per-cent weight reduction comes from lightening the platform and powertrain as well as a number of key suspension components that are now constructed of aluminum.

4MOTION

All Touaregs come standard with VW's dual-range 4MOTION all-wheel-drive setup that in normal driving situations maintains a 40:60 front-to-rear torque bias. The system also features a locking centre differential that fixes the torque split to maximize traction over slippery terrain.

For 2011, Comfortline, Highline and Execline trim levels are offered. All feature a wealth of luxury content.

▶ The Touareg looks different, for sure, but just as important is that it weighs significantly less. Coupled to a new eight-speed automatic transmission, fuel economy is much improved.

Give this SUV some respect

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Rodney Dangerfield famously complained that he never received a scintilla of respect.

In terms of overall popularity, the Volkswagen Touareg has had the same issue with its 2004-model-year launch.

Perhaps it's the nearly unpronounceable name (Touareg, or Twah-regg, refers to a nomadic Saharadwelling tribe), its low-key styling or a price tag that outdistances many of its luxury competitors.

But it could also be that people shopping for vehicles in this bracket are reluctant to spend in excess of 50 large for a Volkswagen, regardless of how proficient it is at churning up the sod.

These folks can cross-shop VW's Audi offshoot for the five-passenger, V6-equipped Q5 sport ute that offers upscale brand name cachet for about the same price as a new Touareg.

Fortunately VW has managed to attract sufficient fans of the marque to invest in an updated second-generation wagon that wraps its rugged underpinnings in a more attractive package.

Now that the slimmed-down Touareg is more attractive and less thirsty, Volkswagen can likely expect more look-sees and a less of the Rodney Dangerfield treatment.

‘The best car nobody’s ever heard of’

Volvo C30 owners seem unanimously impressed

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

What’s the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2007 to 2010 Volvo C30
- **Vehicle Type:** Three-door hatch
- **Approximate used price range:** $16,000 to $26,000

The C30 is Volvo’s compact three-door hatch, which the Swedish automaker launched on Canadian shores for 2007 to battle the likes of the Audi A3, Mini Cooper, VW GTI, Mercedes B200 and others.

Available solely as a four-seat model with front-wheel drive, the C30 brought Volvo’s reputation for safety, uniqueness and refinement into the upscale hatch segment. In the used market, shoppers can consider one of two engines for their C30. Standard was a 2.4-litre inline five-cylinder backed by a five-speed manual or five-speed automatic. This particular C30 designation was named the “2.4i,” and it developed 168 horsepower.

The C30 “T5” got a turbocharged 2.5-litre five-cylinder engine, good for 218 horsepower and fitted with a six-speed manual. Newer models got a slightly-increased 227 horsepower. Available or standard feature content included a tilt and telescoping steering wheel, a sunroof, automatic climate control, Volvo’s unique waterfall console, antilock brakes, full power accessories, a driver computer, and an 8-speaker stereo with satellite radio.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ 2007 Volvo C30

What Owners Like

Ride and handling are almost unanimously highly rated amongst C30 owners. Phrases like “fun to drive,” “exciting” and “sporty” were frequently used as descriptors. Shifter feel and a solid, nicely-trimmed cabin are also raved about. One owner in an online forum even called the C30 “the best car nobody’s ever heard of.”

What Owners Hate

Heavy doors, a long reach for the seatbelts and hefty fuel consumption with the turbo engine are the more typical owner complaints.

Some owners also wish for an extra set of doors for easier access to the rear seats.

Common Issues

The C30 isn’t a sales superstar — so the availability of consumer-reported reliability information from the usual sources is fairly sparse.

In checks of the usual online forums, things on the dependability front looked fairly solid.

Some digging revealed age-related complaints about broken floor-mat anchors, easily-chipped paint, a rattly rear window, and a trim-piece around the parking brake that often becomes loose. Nothing major.

Avoid any model with a manual transmission that exhibits grinding or slippage, which could indicate a problem with the clutch or gearbox.

The Verdict

End of the day, a well-maintained C30 should prove unique, fun, enjoyable and reliable.

EVERYONE LEARNS FROM MISTAKES, RIGHT?

Auto Pilot

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE@ METRONEWS.CA

Humans learn from mistakes — it’s part of our survival strategy. This is why disco only happened once, aided of course, by John Travolta’s inability to squeeze back into his white pants.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The fleet-only Chevrolet Captiva is part of a shrewd plan to help GM overcome supply issues with the hot-selling Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain crossovers.

The meltdown of the auto industry in 2008 wasn’t entirely the industry’s fault, but its subsequent reincarnation affords us an opportunity to see if it, too, has the ability to learn from past missteps.

It obviously had to downsize to meet lower “recession-style” demand, and in cases like Chrysler and GM, just to stay afloat.

But even with modest sales in 2009, lots of automakers turned nice profits. With lower operating costs they didn’t have to sell so many units, and by not “over producing” they didn’t have to sell those vehicles at “fire sale” prices. Not only is this a better profit model, it’s better for the automaker’s long-term brand image and health. Can they stick to this plan?

The telltale signs of oversupply are incentives — zero per cent financing, manufacturer rebates, employee pricing, bobble-head dolls for the first 1,000 customers. Automakers don’t like incentives, but it’s hard to look the other way, when you got product piling up and/or competitors eating your lunch. We’re seeing more and more incentives creep back into the market, including many now based on fuel discounts.

Short-term fix or a slippery slope? We’ll see. I think most automakers are just trying to adjust to the softer-than-expected rebound of the economy.

Many are sticking to their guns, however, about not “over producing.” GM, for example, had a problem keeping up with Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain demand. Both are built at the company’s plant in Ingersoll, Ont. But instead of throwing big money at another plant, it addressed the situation with two shrewd moves — adding an Equinox/Terrain line at its Oshawa facility, and introducing the Chevy Captiva, a “fleet only” Mexican-built crossover based on the recently departed Saturn Vue.

Another automaker lesson learned since 2008, is don’t alienate your suppliers. When automakers downsized, the supplier community suffered collateral damage. The automakers didn’t shed too many tears over this, but now that they’re in recovery mode and need more parts, the auto parts suppliers aren’t too quick to shake hands and make nice.

And then there is the leasing lesson: Ford, GM and Chrysler and others stopped leasing vehicles even before 2008, as they failed to manage the risks of using low, monthly leasing payments to move vehicles off lots. To get low leasing rates, they had to artificially inflate the value of what the vehicle would be worth as a used vehicle at lease end. The automakers’ in-house leasing companies were often on the hook for these discrepancies, which was exacerbated by a big batch of identical cars entering the used market at the same time, further depressing values.

Ford, GM and Chrysler are, or will soon be, tipping their toes back into leasing, and we wonder how disciplined they will be this time around.

I’m guessing, way more disciplined, but you never know.

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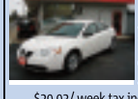

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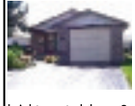

64 Dalhousie $224,900
Charming open concept bungalow. Main floor laundry. 5 Appliances included. Light, bright, neutral decor. Ceramic floors in foyer. Hardwood on main level. Cathedral ceiling in dining & living rooms. Gas fireplace. Custom California shutters in main floor bedrooms. Beautiful gardens. 3 season porch. Over 1500 sq. ft. main and approx. 850 sq. ft. lower. 2 decks! Many updates: Garage door (2005) Front door & A/C (2006) Roof (2007) Skylights (2008) 48 Hour Irrevocable on all offers

62 SHAW BL $264,900
Lovely raised open concept ranch in Lynhurst St Thomas. Neutral colours, with large windows that let in lots of sunlight. Raised deck off dining room to good sized backyard. Three good sized bedrooms with large walkin in the master. Lower level done with fourth bedroom, four piece bathroom and big, big family room. Lots of room for the kids to play and lots of room for the parents to enjoy television.

Houses For Sale

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6 OAKWOOD LINKS LA # 7 $339,900
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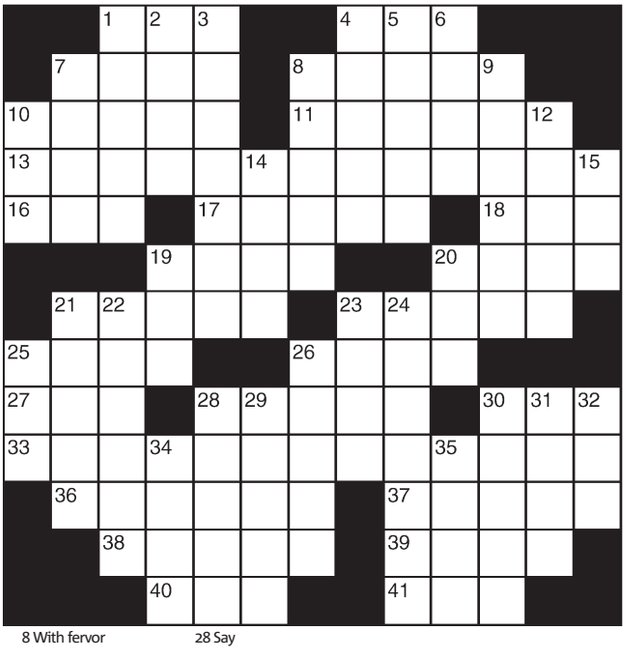

Across

1 Cage component
4 More, to Manuel
7 Actress Spelling
8 Island south of Sicily
10 November birthstone
11 Under the weather
13 Binary array
16 Marry
17 Poet James Whitcomb —
18 Pensioned (Abbr.)
19 Bohemian
20 Simple
21 Guys
23 Penniless
25 Coffee shop vessels
26 Satyrlike figure
27 Standard
28 Wrinkly fruits
30 Bando of baseball lore
33 Romantic whisperings
36 Computer style
37 Motorola smartphone
38 Considers
39 Springsteen's "— Fire"
40 Before
41 Chow down

Down

1 Lassoed
2 Alternatives to 401(k)s
3 More than just odd
4 Corn
5 Cats' bailiwick
6 Commotion
7 Color quality
8 With fervor
9 Parka
10 AAA job
12 Silliness symbols
14 Little lice
15 Pigpen
19 Commercials
20 A billion years
21 Elongate vowels, maybe
22 Illiterate
23 Worms, often
24 "The Satanic Verses" author
25 Boom times
26 Disasters
28 Say
29 Travelocity mascot
30 Beezer
31 Not "fer"
32 1960s hallucinogen
34 Duel tool
35 "My Friend —"

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	R	A	T	■	B	A	D	■	P	A	S	S
L	I	R	A	■	E	G	O	■	A	L	E	E
U	S	E	R	■	R	E	S	T	R	I	C	T
R	E	S	T	A	G	E	■	H	E	A	T	H
■	■	■	A	S	S	■	G	I	N	■	■	■
S	T	I	N	K	■	R	E	S	T	A	R	T
I	O	N	■	■	O	U	T	■	■	D	U	O
R	E	S	T	Y	L	E	■	H	A	S	T	Y
■	■	■	O	E	D	■	V	I	Z	■	■	■
E	D	E	M	A	■	R	E	S	T	O	R	E
R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	■	E	V	E	R
A	L	T	O	■	G	N	U	■	C	A	N	S
S	I	A	M	■	E	K	E	■	S	L	O	T

Sudoku

9			6		8			4
	8		4		5		3	
		7				2		
		1	2		4	6		
6								1
		2	1		6	8		
		8				3		
	3		8		1		4	
2			7		9			5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	7	2	4	1	9	8	5	6
5	8	9	6	7	2	1	4	3
1	4	6	8	5	3	2	9	7
2	5	7	9	4	6	3	8	1
4	3	8	1	6	7	9	2	5
9	6	1	2	3	5	7	6	4
8	1	4	3	9	6	5	7	2
7	9	3	5	2	4	6	1	8
6	2	5	7	8	1	4	3	9

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i love you xubi! Thank you for being such an amazing husband.. U make everyday beautiful =) ... **LOVE, HINU!**

Dear Marie, Just a small poem to thou from thee. U r amazing it is plain to see, I am very happy that U and I spells we. XOXO **GEMINIGUY**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Get it together. Create something amazing over the next day.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Others may worry about the future, but you know that what's to come isn't yet written.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 It's always important to get your timing right, and now is the time to make your mark.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Force yourself to make an effort. The results will be surprising, and the rewards will be amazing.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Find new ways to explore your world. Do something exciting.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 While others take risks and look foolish, you weigh odds and make the right moves.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Sometimes, you have no choice but to follow someone who has a better proposal. It's that time.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 It's not often that you act on impulse, but you'll do so today. It's all or nothing.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Be creative and try something new. Aim high, then go higher.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If a friend offers you advice, you would be wise to pin back your ear lobes and listen.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 The first idea that comes to mind is the one you must follow, no matter how strange.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. If you're brave enough to follow your gut, you might make a fortune. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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